

Amendments to the Specification

Please cancel the section entitled "Abstract" and insert the following new Abstract in its place:

ABSTRACT

A membrane connector (1) has a generally annular body (2) having an interior region (8). An elongate projection (10) projects from the body into the interior region (8). In use, the body (2) is attached to a membrane (14) such as a yacht sail and allows a fastener such as a rope to be attached to the membrane, via the connector (1), to control or secure the membrane. The fastener typically comprises a loop of flexible material (18, 24) which may be easily placed over the projection (10) so that force can be applied to the membrane in a direction that is generally coincident with a longitudinal axis of the projection. The connector (1) allows membranes such as sails to be easily and quickly taken down and reset and has no moving parts so it is not prone to failure.